

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NIC-01 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NEA-10 AF-10 /214 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7385

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 5932

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS ON U.S. EUROPEAN-FRENCH RELATIONS

SUMMARY: NYTIMES REPORT THAT U.S. IS STUDYING MEASURES TO
"ISOLATE" FRANCE WAS FEATURED MARCH 8 BY ONE PARIS NEWSPAPER
WHICH ALSO INCLUDED DEPARTMENT'S
DENIAL OF STORY AND CONCLUSION
OF ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT THAT STORY IS INDEED TRUE.

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SEVERAL ACCOUNTS PICKED UP SECRETARY'S SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

REMARKS, QUOTING HIM IN ONE INSTANCE ON THE "INCONGRUITY" IN U.S. -EUROPEAN RELATIONS, AND IN ANOTHER THAT U.S. LEADERSHIP IN WEST CAN BE USED TO BLOCK "TENDENCY" OF SOME COUNTRIES TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL ENERGY DEALS. SURPRISE OVER "VIOLENCE" OF SECRETARY'S ALLEGED VIEWS ABOUT EEC DECISION TO SEEK DIALOGUE WITH ARABS WAS REPORTED FROM BONN, WHERE GERMANS WERE DESCRIBED AS MORE MINDFUL OF FRENCH WARNINGS ABOUT U.S. DESIGNS IN EUROPE. WHILE U.S. WAS VIEWED AS LESS CONCERNED OVER SUBSTANCE OF EEC OUVERTURE TO ARABS THAN BY MANNER IN WHICH THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN, GAULLIST PARTY NEWSPAPER HEADLINED ITS "THANKS" TO SECRETARY FOR SUPPLYING "GRIST FOR (JOBERT'S) MILL". END SUMMARY.

1. FROM WASHINGTON, FRANCE-SOIR CORRESPONDENT DE SEGONZAC WROTE THAT THE "INTELLECTUAL JOUST" THAT IS BEGINNING TO BE KNOWN AS THE "MIKE AND HENRY SHOW" CANNOT HIDE THE TRUTH UNDERLINED BY ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN AMERICAN COMMENTATORS, JAMES RESTON THAT "THERE EXISTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S. A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE ABOUT HOW THE WORLD SHOULD BE ORGANIZED." HE QUOTES SECRETARY BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT "WE SEE NOTHING INCOMPATIBLE" BETWEEN INTERESTS OF U.S. AND FRANCE. BUT ACCORDING TO THE NYTIMES, SAYS DE SEGONZAC, SECRETARY IS CURRENTLY STUDYING "MEASURES DESIGNED TO ISOLATE FRANCE WITHOUT FORCING HER EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON." IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, REPORTED DE SEGONZAC, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DENIED SUCH STUDY WAS UNDERWAY, BUT ADDED THAT "IT IS NORMAL FOR A COUNTRY TO KEEP UNDER PERMANENT SCRUTINY ALL ASPECTS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES". IN OTHER WORDS, SAID DE SEGONZAC, THE REPORT OF A STUDY IS "NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION BUT THE U.S. DOESN'T WANT TO CONFIRM IT".

2. REPORTING FURTHER ON FINANCE COMMITTEE TESTIMONY, DE SEGONZAC SAID SECRETARY FOUND IT "INCONGRUOUS" THAT HIS NATO PARTNERS WANT TO BE CONSULTED ON DEFENSE PROBLEMS, BUT DON'T AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. "WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN? IS KISSINGER REALLY ANGRY ENOUGH WITH THE EUROPEANS EVENTUALLY TO SET ALONE? AND ANGRY UNCLASSIFIED

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ENOUGH WITH FRANCE TO WANT TO ISOLATE HER ? OR IS HIS ATTITUDE A GAME TO FRIGHTEN THE COMMUNITY, TO MAKE IT STAND UP TO FRANCE AND RALLY TO THE 'LEADERSHIP' OF THE UNITED STATES? BY AGAIN POUNDING HIS FIST ON THE TABLE, AS HE DID AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, KISSINGER IS HOPING TO GET THE 'EIGHT' BACK INTO LINE, SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN RE-AROUSSED TO REVOLT BY FRANCE AND ARE HESITATING ON THE POSITION TO TAKE".

3. "A MISUNDERSTANDING OF EXCEPTIONAL GRAVITY" WAS HOW DE
SEGONZAC'S COLLEAGUE IN BONN, STEPHANE
ROUSSEL, DEWCRIED THE RESULT OF "LONG" KISSINGER-SHEEL TALKS LAST
WEEK IN GERMAN CAPITAL. (FRANCE-SOIR HEADLINED THE STORY "GERMANS
BEGIN TO TAKE SERIOUSLY FRENCH WARNINGS ABOUT KISSINGER THREATS".)
RECALLING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S ASSERTION THAT U.S. HAD BEEN
PRESENTED WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI BY NINE ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE,
ROUSSEL WONDERED IF SECRETARY HAD MISINTERPRETED WHAT SCHEEL
TOLD HIM. SCHEEL, HAD UNDERLINED, HE SAID, THAT NINE'S
INITIATIVE TOWARD ARABS WOULD NOT PREVENT BONN FROM PARTICIPATING
IN U.S. EFFORTS AT COOPERATION BETWEEN CONSUMING AND PRODUCING
COUNTRIES. EURO-ARAB COOPERATION, ROUSSEL NOTED, DOES NOT
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BEAR ESSENTIALLY ON OIL QUESTIONS; SEVERAL OF 20 ARAB STATES INVOLVED ARE NOT EVEN OIL PRODUCERS. MOREOVER, EURO-ARAB COOPERATION PROPOSAL DEALS WITH ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION OVER LONG TERM.

4. ABOUT ALL OF THIS, WROTE ROUSSELS, "THE GERMAN MINISTER HAD INFORMED KISSINGER" IN BONN, 48 HOURS AFTER REACHING AGREEMENT ON IT WITH JOBERT. "MR. KISSINGER THUS KNEW OF EUROPEAN INTENTIONS. THAT IS WHY BONN WAS STRUCK BY THE VIOLENCE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. REACTION---EVEN MORE SURPRISING IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT MR. KISSINGER HIMSELF HAD COME OUT IN FAVOR OF A EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO STABILIZING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION". CONCLUSION, WROTE ROUSSEL, IS THAT U.S. "SEEMS INTENT ON, IF NOT ACTUALLY OPPOSING ANY INCLINATION TO INDEPENDENCE, AT LEAST INTERVENING DIRECTLY IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOW CAN THE GERMANS NOT RECALL FRANCE'S WARNINGS TO HER EIGHT PARTNERS?" HE QUOTED A RECENT GERMAN EDITORIAL WARNING THAT, AFTER MR. KISSINGER'S RECENT STATEMENTS, FRANCE WAS NO LONGER ALONE IN PRESSING FOR "EQUALITY OF RIGHTS" IN DIALOGUE BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE. "SUCH COMMENTARIES ARE NOT COMMON IN THE GERMAN PRESS, WHICH IS ALWAYS CONCERNED WITH NOT ANNOYING BONN'S PRINCIPAL ALLY. MR. KISSINGER'S TRIP TO EUROPE WAS NOT A SUCCESS". ROUSSEL SAID.

5. IN FINANCIAL DAILY LES ECHOS, JACQUES CLERGIER WROTE THAT "LATEST INCIDENT, WHICH EACH DAY TAKES ON NEW PROPORTIONS AND MAKES NIXON'S VISIT TO EUROPE LESS LIKELY---UNLESS HE IS LOOKING FOR A SPECTACULAR CLASH---SHOWS AMERICAN POLICY FOR WHAT IT IS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY RESENTS THE NATURE OF EUROPEAN POLICY DECISIONS LESS THAN THE FACT THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THEIR ELABORATION. FOR THE MOMENT, WASHINGTON WANTS TO PREVENT THE NINE FROM FOLLOWING A COMMON, INDEPENDENT POLICY".

6. LEFTIST COMBAT, WHICH HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED FRENCH TACTICS IN THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE EFFECT OF FRENCH ACTIONS ON EUROPEAN RELATIONS, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY TOLD SENATE COMMITTEE THE U.S. CAN USE ITS LEADERSHIP IN WESTERN WORLD "TO BLOCK THE TENDENCY WHICH HAS LED SEVERAL COUNTRIES TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS SINCE THE ENERGY CRISIS BEGAN". COMMENTING ON THIS, COMBAT SAID:"IT WOULD BE HARD TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, FRANK AND BLUNDERING AT THE SAME TIME. FRANCE'S PARTNERS SHOULD KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AND SHOULD REACT ACCORDINGLY. NO COUNTRY IN EUROPE NEEDS TO TAKE LESSONS OR

ORDERS FROM MR. KISSINGER".

7. UNDER HEADLINE "THANK YOU, MR. KISSINGER". "GAULLIST PARTY PAPER LA NATION CLAIMED THAT MICHEL JOBERT CAN THANK HENRY KISSINGER. EVERY DAY THE (SECRETARY) PROVIDES GRIST FOR (JOBERT'S) MILL. THE NYTIMES SAID AFTER THE WASHINGTON UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE THAT JOBERT'S ATTITUDE HELPED KISSINGER GET HIS IDEAS ACROSS. TODAY THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT. IF THERE REMAINS ANYONE IN EUROPE WHO STILL DOUBTS THE CONFERENCE WAS AIMED LESS AT MEETING THE ENERGY CRISIS THAN AT BRINGING THE EUROPEANS BACK INTO STEP WITH AMERICA, THEN HENRY KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS COMPLETELY DISPEL SUCH DOUBT AND EVEN SUPPORT THE FRENCH POSITION."
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